

Thanks to Daisy Gordon's vision, millions of girls have learned the values of personal responsibility, conservation, friendship, community, and teamwork.

Girl Scouts carry these important lessons with them for the rest of their lives.

The Girl Scouts and I share a birthday and on this Girl Scout Day, I applaud the Girl Scouts for affording millions of girls across the country with the opportunity to be part of something much bigger than themselves.

OBSERVING INTERNATIONAL
WOMEN'S DAY

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 12, 2014

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in observance of International Women's Day, March 8—recognized by the United Nations. Today, we celebrate the social, political, economic, cultural and intellectual achievements of women around the globe. The United Nations' theme for this year's international recognition—"Equality for women is progress for all"—emphasizes empowerment of women and women's full enjoyment of human rights and stresses the vital role of women as agents of change in our society. Today, courageous women like Bui Thi Minh Hang need our immediate attention.

Two years ago on this occasion, I stood on the House floor recognizing and advocating for Ms. Hang, who was sentenced without trial for participating in peaceful protests related to the Eastern Sea. She was eventually released but face ongoing harassment from the Vietnamese authorities. Recently, Ms. Hang and her friends were brutally beaten and unlawfully detained while on their way to visit a former prisoner of conscience. It has been almost one month and Ms. Hang is still detained without any due process for "obstructing traffic". I am once again recognizing Ms. Hang for her ongoing efforts to for social and political issues in Vietnam. Ms. Hang has inspired many Vietnamese women, youth and fellow human rights activists.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join me in recognizing International Women's Day and women like Bui Thi Minh Hang who are advocating for freedom and democracy in their communities, and call on governments like Vietnam to immediately and unconditionally release Bui Thi Minh Hang and all prisoners of conscience.

HONORING TOM CLEMENTS

HON. CORY GARDNER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 12, 2014

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Tom Clements of Monument, Colorado. Mr. Clements served for two years as Executive Director of the Colorado Department of Corrections and made many improvements to the prisons of Colorado before he tragically lost his life in March of 2013.

During his time at the Colorado Department of Corrections, Mr. Clements had an enor-

mous impact on Colorado's prison system. He implemented reforms to benefit staff and inmates and developed innovative solutions to some of the Department's most persistent problems. Mr. Clements also worked to improve the lives of Coloradans both inside and outside of the prison system by providing inmates with the counseling and skills necessary to become successful members of society upon release. In rehabilitating these individuals, Mr. Clements helped create a better future for our state.

The loss of Mr. Clements has been a loss for all of Colorado. His kindness, compassion, and dedication to public service must never be forgotten. Please join me in remembering this extraordinary man.

IN HONOR OF MASTER SERGEANT
DAVID POIRIER

HON. ANN M. KUSTER

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 12, 2014

Ms. KUSTER. Mr. Speaker, today, I honor the life of Master Sergeant David Poirier, a New Hampshire National Guardsman who passed away late last month while serving in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Master Sergeant Poirier was an exemplary Guardsman, a long-serving Postmaster in his hometown of Atkinson, and a great family man. His service reminds us of the sacrifice our National Guardsmen and their families make on behalf of our state and our country.

In recent years, we have asked these brave men and women to leave friends and family at home as they supported Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom, and performed humanitarian missions around the world. We must not forget how much our Guardsmen give to keep us all safe, prosperous, and free. May Master Sergeant Poirier rest in peace, and may we honor him by celebrating the service and sacrifice of all those who wear the uniform each and every day.

UNITED STATES PARALYMPIANS
FROM THIRD DISTRICT OF COLO-
RADO TRIBUTE

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 12, 2014

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the two outstanding athletes from Colorado's 3rd district who are competing in the 2014 Winter Paralympic Games in Sochi, Russia. With their dedication, passion, and spirit, these two women are fine examples of the best our nation has to offer, and they serve as role models for young people around the world. To formally acknowledge their distinction and excellence, I stand to recognize these athletes from Colorado's 3rd district:

Melanie Schwartz of Aspen, Colorado, will represent the United States in Alpine Skiing. Ms. Schwartz began her Paralympic career in her home country of Canada during the 2010 Vancouver games. In 2012 and 2013, Ms. Schwartz chose to represent the United States in two World Cups, placing first in the slalom

event in 2013. Earlier this year, she took second place at the 2014 U.S. National Championships for downhill. When she isn't representing us on the mountain, she spends much of her time giving back to her community through volunteer services, including serving as a ski instructor for children with disabilities.

Heidi Jo Duce of Ouray, Colorado, will take to the slopes to compete in the challenging snowboard cross events. Ms. Duce has rapidly become a champion athlete since she won the U.S. National Championships in 2013, her first year of competing professionally. She is currently ranked second in the world for para-snowboard cross. An avid outdoorswoman, she enjoys all that Colorado has to offer, including rock climbing, mountain biking, backpacking, and hunting.

Mr. Speaker, it is truly an honor to recognize these fine athletes. Together, they show us what determination and passion can accomplish. Ms. Schwartz and Ms. Duce continue to inspire all of us and it is an honor to congratulate them on their extraordinary careers as they represent the best of America to the world.

JESUS CORTEZ

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 12, 2014

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Jesus Cortez for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Jesus Cortez is an 8th grader at Everitt Middle School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Jesus Cortez is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Jesus Cortez for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MIKE MCINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 12, 2014

Mr. MCINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 115, 116, 117, I was unavoidably detained because of airplane mechanical issues on my return trip to Washington. Had I been present I would have voted "yes" on each of these suspension votes.